



Reporter

News and Views from around the area

Volume 2 Issue 11

December 2010

www.milbornestandrew.org.uk/reporter

Millborne St. Andrew



Santa's magic at the
Village Fairy Fayre

Printing the Reporter

Can you help?

SIXTY copies of the *Reporter* were delivered very, very late last month. For this we apologise. The reason was that our printer broke down and it took a technician from Toshiba four visits and three weeks to identify and eventually repair the fault.

We have no back-up printer and to print the *Reporter* using a commercial printer is prohibitively expensive. So . . . can you, or the company you work for, possibly help us out should there be another major problem?

We print 520 copies of the *Reporter* every month and currently this is done using a photocopier that can print both sides of A3 paper – usually eight sheets per copy. Do you, or your company have a machine that could be made available for us, should the need arise? We cannot afford to pay commercial rates but will pay the actual cost of printing (we hold our own stock of paper).

If you can, or think that you may be able to help us, should the need arise, then please contact me on 01258 837921 or at the *Reporter* (reporter@milbornestandrew.org.uk).

Thank you. *Ed Frost* (on behalf of the *Reporter* Team)

A Trumpet Call

at the November meeting of the WI

OUR November meeting this year fell on Remembrance Day and it seemed fitting that our speaker, Colonel Torrent, should talk to us about the trumpet and bugle, and their use within the British infantry regiments. This versatile instrument has been an important part of Colonel Torrent's life ever since the age of 11, both during his army career and afterwards. As well as the trumpet's place in the cavalry, it encompasses classical, modern, jazz, dance, etc. To illustrate its versatility we were treated to a snatch of 'Misty' on a pocket trumpet, as well as the 'Last Post' on the bugle – *not a dry eye in the house!*

As ever, there is lots going on between meetings – **Skittles**: Nelda reported three wins, two losses and one to go – so we are still in with a chance! **Book club**: Two more members have joined, a reminder that we are happy to welcome non-WI members. **Pub lunch** on Tuesday 14th December will be a Christmas menu.

Autumn Council meeting June Maitland reported that the main speaker, Ann Widdecombe, had been replaced at short notice by Edwina Currie and she had proved to be well worth listening to. As an aside, June said it was interesting to note that apparently the WI has a reputation among politicians for being terrifying – exemplified by the slow-handclapping of Tony Blair at the WI's annual conference 10 years ago!

Our next meeting, on Thursday 9th December, will be our Christmas party – a reminder to bring along a plate of food, either savoury or sweet, plus a small gift. There will be a magician, but we are assured there will be no levitations or cutting in half, so we look forward to a cheery, uplifting and seasonal evening! *Pat Bull*

Milborne St. Andrew Remembers



IT was gratifying to see a large number of people from the village assemble at the Memorial Stone by Church Hill on Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2010.

The Last Post was played, followed by the two minute silence. The names of the fallen in the two World Wars were read out, and then the passage from Laurence Binyon's famous poem and the Kohima were heard.

Peter Dow laid the first wreath from the Royal British Legion then the Milborne St. Andrew Scouts laid their wreath in tribute to the fallen. Harry Alexander read a moving poem written by Sgt Andy McFarlane who has recently served in Afghanistan. The poem 'Sunset Vigil' relays the too often sad news of yet another casualty in that far off country.

With the passing of the last survivor of the First World War the emphasis for our remembrance shifts towards the current and recent conflicts since and including the Second World War, this was brought into focus by Dean Patrick who kindly took the prayers at our Remembrance Service. The work of the Royal British Legion, whilst apparently locked into the major conflicts of the last century, is in fact helping all those who have been injured or bereaved as a result of recent and ongoing conflicts. The work of the Royal British Legion does not end when the conflict ends but goes on for many years.

The poppy collection is vital in raising funds to help with the ongoing charity work and members of the Milborne St. Andrew section of the Royal British Legion thank all those who gave this year and their continuing support. As soon as the figures are available we will let you know via this medium.

A special mention should go to Geoff Cherry for the installation of the cut stone in front of the Memorial Stone which now allows the Remembrance Crosses to be placed securely and remain undisturbed during the grass cutting.



The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the *Reporter* team.

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Your Reporter Team

Janet Allen, Kate Chastey, Ed Frost, Sue Gould,

Heather V. Hogg, David Payne

and Ed Richards

Advertising and General Enquiries: Ed Frost 01258 837921

News and Features: Sue Gould 01258 837575

Finance and Photography: Heather V. Hogg 01258 837392

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Paper copy to Sue Gould at 28 Stileham Bank DT11 0LE



A Merry Christmas from the Reporter

The Reporter Team would like to thank the distributors, advertisers and contributors who have made our second year of publication so enjoyable and successful. May we wish you and our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year? We look forward to your continuing support in 2011. Please note the revised date for copy for the January issue to the 14th December. We hope to distribute January's magazine before Christmas.

Wednesday Social club

ON the 3rd November we all met at the village hall to listen to a talk on British ceremonies and customs, given by Mr Alan Martin and assisted by his wife Jean.

Our journey started in Combe Martin, Devon and the "Hunting of the Earl of Rhone" ceremony. The Earl is a renegade and wanted by the authorities, and is caught ready for execution. He is sat to ride backwards on a donkey and periodically shot dead as the procession rides through the town. He is brought back to life by a 'Obby Oss' but when the revellers reach the beach he is shot for the last time and thrown into the sea from whence he came. Everyone then retires to the Top Pub to eat strawberry cake as a reminder of the early harvest here in the valley. This ceremony of death and rebirth is the basis for many events all over Britain.

Our next visit was to Olney in Bedfordshire where the Shrove Tuesday pancake race has been held for nearly 1,000 years and is restricted to 'ladies of the parish' only.

We then travelled to Cornwall to visit Helston and so the Furry Dance. This dance which takes place all day celebrates spring and the dancers are interrupted by St. Michel, St. George, St. Pirin and many more characters to remind 'Helstonians' of the various events in history when they have been saved from disaster.

With a side trip to see the Horn Dance, a very ancient dance, at Abbotts Ripton, we returned to the west country to visit the Sailors Obby Oss at Minehead and then onto Padstow in Cornwall to meet their two Osses in a dance that goes on all day and often gets very rowdy. All of which are fertility dances.

At one time there used to take place Hurling Ceremonies all over Britain but the only two that remain are held at St. Ives and St. Columb, both in Cornwall. This is a game of catch using a silver ball.

Scotland has a "Green man" ceremony held at Ferry Bridge where a man covered in Burrs parades through the streets collecting money for charity. His only sustenance is whisky taken through a straw!!

With visits to Castleton in Derbyshire to see the Garlanding ceremony, we went on to explore Morris Dancing in its various forms throughout the country.

Harvest brought its own fun with Straw Bears at Whittlesey and the history of corn dollies. We then looked at the various Church Bosses and the arrival in Britain of the "Three Hares" symbol all the way down the 5,000 years of travel from China.

Finally we witnessed the great Viking Fire ceremony of "Up Helly-Aa" which is held in Lerwick, Shetland in the first week of January. Men dressed as Vikings parade a replica of a long ship through the street and at midnight it is set on fire to re-enact a Viking Funeral event.

Then we had a short look at Iceland and the Volcano that erupted earlier this year. Jean had taken some terrific photos of this and the colours were spectacular. It was very interesting. It really was a fire and ice, programme. The ice that is thousands of years old is a steel blue and like glass or as strong as steel. Incredible.

December is our Christmas Lunch; we have 59 members and friends booked for the outing.

January 12th our New Year Party 2.00pm, with live entertainment and hot buffet in The Royal Oak. All welcome. Tickets £8.00 payable in advance. Please book with Margaret Evans 01258 450518. Wishing all our members and friends a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year
Eve Richardson

Two local gentlemen pass away

Charles (Charlie) Morby

Passed away peacefully on 16th November 2010 at Dorset County Hospital aged 92 years.

Dearest dad of Roy, Christine and Barbara.

Funeral service at St. Andrew's Church on Friday 26th November at 2.00pm

Donations if wished for the Milton Abbas Patients Participation Group c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 8 Princes Street, Dorchester DT1 1TW

Patrick Hurley 1937-2010



A MUCH loved and well known resident of Milborne St. Andrew, Patrick Hurley, suffered a cerebral haemorrhage on 28th October and died less than 24 hours later, aged 73 years.

Pat could never have been described as a 'larger than life' character, but he certainly didn't pass unnoticed. Since moving with his wife Margaret to MSA 11 years ago to be near the younger of his two daughters, he joined wholeheartedly into village life, being a member of the Food and Wine Society and the Gardening Club, playing a key role in the development and care of the club's allotment.

But what some may not have realised was the breadth of his interests and expertise. Pat had an enormous thirst for knowledge, had to know how things worked, could never leave something broken if he could find a way to fix it, and over the course of his life turned his hand to an amazing array of pastimes which included: woodwork, playing the piano, kite-making, car-restoration, embroidery, jewellery-making and enamelling, photography, researching his family tree and candle-making. His hot cross buns won prizes in the village show, and his home-made Punch and Judy show delighted first his own children and then 30 years later, his grandchildren.

It was his self-taught engineering skills however that were perhaps the most remarkable. He had a lifelong passion for steam and built a number of precision-crafted working models of steam engines – as well as fun ones made from a dog-food tin and a rubber glove! – and at the time of his death was close to completing possibly the only accurate model in existence of the Agenoria, one of the earliest steam locomotives, pre-dating Stephenson's Rocket.

He was a member of the Dorset Clock Society, building a beautiful array of clocks from components he made himself and repairing numerous others for friends.

He put his engineering skills to use in his work for Remap (a charity which makes custom made equipment for people with disabilities), providing one-off gadgets to a number of local people ranging from toddlers to Senior Citizens and also taught literacy and maths to adults in Dorchester.

In the last few years he had been carefully researching and recording the gravestones in the older part of St. Andrew's churchyard, despite the fact that many of them are virtually illegible. He had intended to make all the information available on the village website both for locals but also for anyone researching their own family tree who might like to know where their relatives are buried. (This information is available if anyone would like to complete the project).

He will, of course, be much missed by his family – and indeed by all those from the village who had the privilege of knowing him.



**THE BENEFICE OF PUDDLETOWN, TOLPUDDLE AND MILBORNE WITH DEWLISH
PART OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE DIOCESE OF SALISBURY**

Dear Friends,

Christmas Journeys

I love journeys, and I am always a little excited by them.

There is something adventurous about a journey - something a little unpredictable - they are outside the normal day to day routine, and always contain something of the unknown.

Perhaps that is why journeys have always been such a significant part of Christian spirituality (and indeed the spirituality of many faiths).

Pilgrimage is the historical expression of this - the journey to a special or holy place in search of some new insight into God. And in pilgrimage, although the destination is important (or else there would be no point in making the journey) it is the journey itself which makes the biggest impact on the life of a pilgrim.

The Christmas story is full of journeys. There is the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. The journey the shepherds made, coming in from the fields to find a baby in a stable. And of course the journey which the Magi made with gold, frankincense, and myrrh to seek the new born king.

Not all journeys are chosen, of course. Mary and Joseph would certainly not have chosen their enforced journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and could not have possibly foreseen the greater journey into Egypt fleeing for their lives with a new born baby.

But journeys change us. They take us out of our comfort zone into a less regulated world where the possibilities are endless, either for things to go according to plan or not.

So what about our Christmas journey this year?

Are we going to do things the way we always have, or are we going to be open to God doing something new in our lives?

Believe it or not - we don't have to even leave home to go on a journey. In a recent BBC2 series "The Big Silence" a group of very busy, sceptical, 'not very religious' people spent some time in silence to try to connect with something deeper in their lives, perhaps even with God. As they explored the much undervalued path of silence, they began to experience life in a new way; began to talk to God and hear him talk to them; they also found themselves, and the parts they usually keep hidden. They went on a brave journey - a journey into the unknown, with all the uncertainties and freedoms which that can bring, and it was profoundly spiritual experience.

So why not make some time for silence in your spiritual journey this advent?

Just a few minutes a day would do it - allowing yourself to be quiet and still - setting aside the worries or concerns of the hour to be at peace with God.

If you do this, you may well find yourself embarking on a journey deeper into yourself and deeper into God.

And when we embark on a journey, who knows what might happen . . .

God Bless and Keep You

Benny Hazlehurst

**CHURCH SERVICES
December 2010**

THURSDAY 2nd DECEMBER

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Milborne

5th DECEMBER – Advent 2

9.30am Family Communion Milborne
11.00 Holy Communion Puddletown
11.00 1662 Morning Prayer Dewlish
4.00pm Advent Posada Praise! Tolpuddle
Village Hall

THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Puddletown

12th DECEMBER – Advent 3

8.15am 1662 Said Communion Puddletown
9.30 Parish Communion Milborne
11.00 Family Service Puddletown
Village Hall
11.00 Family Communion Dewlish
and Baptism
6.00pm Joint Carol Service Tolpuddle

Charity Carols for the Children's Society

Sunday 12th December

7.00pm Carols in the Square Puddletown
8.00 The Blue Vinney Puddletown

Tuesday 14th December

7.30pm The Royal Oak Milborne

THURSDAY 16th DECEMBER

12.00 Lunch-time Communion Dewlish

19th DECEMBER – Advent 4

9.30am Family Communion Tolpuddle
3.00pm Carol Service Dewlish
4.00 Christingle Praise! Milborne
Church
6.00 Carol Service Puddletown

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service Tolpuddle
5.00 Crib Service Puddletown
11.00 1662 Midnight Mass Milborne

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Holy Communion Dewlish
9.30 1662 Communion Tolpuddle
11.00 Christmas Family Communion Puddletown
11.00 Family Celebration Milborne

26TH DECEMBER – Christmas 1

3.00pm Benefice Carols Milborne

100 CLUB WINNERS

Draw Date – Tuesday 2nd November 2010

1st prize £100 Greta Gregory
2nd prize £50 Val Hodges
3rd prize £24 Lyn Clements

The next draw is at 8.00pm, in The Royal Oak,
on Tuesday 7th December 2010

Anyone is welcome to attend
New members *always welcome*

Church Contacts

Vicar Benny Hazlehurst 01305 848216
Associate Priest Sarah Godfrey 01258 839067

Church Wardens

Milborne St. Andrew Dewlish
Eva Stockley 01258 837468 Jim Burg 01258 837466
Pat Tribe 01258 837684 Sue Britton 01258 837218
www.milbornestandrewchurch.org.uk

Flowers – w/e Saturday

Advent No flowers 23rd December All helpers please

MILBORNE ST. ANDREW CHURCH NOTES

DO YOU remember this from our last year's Christmas Market when we launched our "Flush Fund" for the new facilities in the church?



The response has been quite good so far, we wonder if you have any pennies in your jar. Would you like to let us have them either to Eva (837468) or Pat (837684) or bring them to a church service by the end of December so that they will be calculated into the 'end of year financial report'. Then we can report on how the Flush Fund is progressing. **Please keep on saving your pennies.**

Our next big fund-raising event towards the new facilities will be when we welcome "The Mill Singers Male Voice Choir" on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm in the church. They will be entertaining us with some Sacred Compositions, Spirituals, Humour, and Christmas readings and songs. I can assure you of a very entertaining evening. Please come and support this event. If you would like a lift ring Eva or Pat.

Our Remembrance Day Service was well attended with the service being conducted by the Ven. Patrick Evans. It was very good to see the Cubs and their leaders in church. We hope to make more of their attendance and parade next year by arranging to formally receive their flag. We then paraded down to the Memorial Stone to join members of the Royal British Legion for 11.00am. There were well over 100 people.

Eva Stockley Churchwarden

Christmas (Fairy) Fair

With a few waves of wands (and a lot of hard work from a lot of people) the village was transformed on 20th November into a wonderland. When Father Christmas arrived at noon he was greeted by Fairy Nuff (who looked suspiciously like an elf), the Condor Ferries, The Brittany Fairies, Fairy Good, and many more. Some of the costumes were... intriguing!

For the next three hours the hall was busy. Bargains were bought, games played and home made soup, mulled wine, tea and fairy cakes were consumed. A good many children went into Santa's grotto and came out clutching presents and looking very happy.

As I write there is still some money to come in, but when everything is finalised and bills paid, the church funds will receive a little over £900. A very big thank you to everyone who helped in any way to raise this magnificent sum. Those who donated items for stalls, cooked, helped on the day, pushed fliers through letter boxes, and of course spent money at the fair all played their part.

Thank you all very much.

Pat Tribe Churchwarden

DEWLISH CHURCH NOTES

Christmas carols take to the trees!

OUR CHRISTMAS Bazaar will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 4th December, starting at 2.30pm. Stalls will include a children's activity table, new goods and gifts, cakes and produce, toys, Christmas decorations, bric-a-brac and books. There will also be a raffle and teas and mince pies. We would be grateful for any donations but, most of all, to see you there!

Church Cleaning - w/e Saturday

4th December Sue Lee and Val Hodges

11th December Mary Bennett and Pat Tribe

18th December Carolyn Martin and Elizabeth Walker

25th December Margaret Hurley and Eva Stockley



The Mill Singers are here to entertain you with a varied & festive programme

Saturday December 11th.
at 7.30pm. in
Milborne St Andrew
Parish Church

Adult: £7.
Child: £3.
Drinks & nibbles will be served during the interval

Tickets available from
Eva 837468 Pat 837684
or pay at the door.

The **Carol Service** will be held at 3.00pm on Sunday 19th December, and this will mark the beginning of our **Christmas Tree Festival**. The church will be open in the afternoons of 20th-24th December inclusive, from 3.00-4.30pm, and tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. The theme for the tree decorating is Christmas Carols. Tea and mince pies are also available in the hall after our Carol Service. The collection from that will be donated to the Children's Society.

We shall be **singing carols** round the village on Tuesday 21st December, meeting at the crossroads at 6.30pm. Donations from this will be given to Shelter. *As you can see from the above, it's a very busy time for us, just as it will be for all the churches in the benefice of course. We send our warmest best wishes to you all.*

Poignant words of remembrance

At our Remembrance Day service a large crowd, including Scouts and Beavers, gathered at the War Memorial to remember all who had died in their service to our country during, and since, the First World War. The service then continued in church. Thank you, Norman, for all your poignant words. The wreath was laid by Mr John Seymour, himself an ex-serviceman. Thank you, John.

Our very talented flower arrangers

We celebrated our Patronal Festival (All Saints) on 31st October with a benefice service. The white flower arrangements throughout the church looked splendid and, for that, we thank our very talented flower arrangers. The service was followed by tea and cakes in the Village Hall, and it was lovely to see all our friends from the benefice while enjoying the tea. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Fireworks display went with a bang

May I congratulate Dewlish Cricket Club once again for staging such a fantastic fireworks display. I know how much hard work goes into the organisation of this event, and especially on the night. It was very well attended and much enjoyed. Thank you all very much.

Daphne Burg



Milborne St. Andrew Gardening Club

THE speaker for our October meeting unfortunately had to cancel, but James Foster-Pegg from Poundbury Garden Centre stepped in and entertained us with advice and tips on growing fruit and vegetables in containers.

Our next meeting on Thursday 2nd December will be our AGM, accompanied by mulled wine and small eats. We hope all members will come and join in, and also have a look at our exciting programme for 2011.

The speaker for our first meeting in the New Year, on Thursday 27th January, will be Philip Gamble, who will be giving a talk on Maintaining Colour in the Garden Without Flowers. From the look of my garden at the moment, this could be quite useful! *Linda Harris*

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Rose and Ed's Christmas Puddings



are now available for collection from the Friday Drop-In at the Village Hall, or call 837921.

A few puddings are still available for purchase at £8.00 each.

Christmas is coming

THAT talented man John Wright has been to Ladybirds again. This time making Christmas cake with the children. They weighed and mixed together the ingredients then John took home the mixture to cook two large cakes. These will be cut into squares and decorated by the children before wrapped and given to parents as Christmas presents.

Over the next weeks there will be many more makes for Christmas involving pens, paint, paper, card, ribbon, glue and of course glitter!

After all this hard work the children will be having a well deserved party at which a well known old gentleman will make an appearance.

Liz Dyer



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WEATHERBURY SINGERS

&

"The Royal Oak"

Milborne St Andrew

present

"CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE PUB"

**TUESDAY
14th DECEMBER
7.30pm**

Everyone Welcome!
Come along, wear a silly Santa hat (mistletoe is risky!)
and join in for an hour or so, to welcome in
the festive season.
(No auditions required!!)

There will be a collection during the evening for
the church 'Children's Society'

Christmas Carols in the pub

THE Royal Oak will host The Weatherbury Singers on Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm for an hour of Christmas carols. Everyone is welcome, so come along, let your hair down and join in many of the simple festive vocal favourites whilst holding a glass of your favourite tittle.

Song-sheets provided but after all these years you should know the words anyway! (No auditions required!) The choir will perform some additional Christmas carol "specials" during the evening so you can all have a breather, and there will be a collection during the evening in aid of the "Children's Society" for the church, so a few spare bob in the box would be very much appreciated.

The choir and the pub look forward to seeing you all there in fine, lubricated voice and, if you want to festively dress for the occasion – a Santa hat (?) – then please feel free to do so. (Use mistletoe at your peril!)

Sid Coe

You are all warmly invited to the popular Milborne St. Andrew

VILLAGE LUNCH

To be held at the Village Hall on
SATURDAY 29th January from 12.15pm

Main Course : Sweet : Wine/Tea/Coffee : Mints
£6.00 per head (children £3.00)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Tickets available from the Drop-In Centre at the Village Hall
from Friday 7th January (10.00am to 12 noon)

or call Melva as soon as possible to reserve tickets!
01258 837453

ABBEY SWIMMING CLUB

The Club is based at Milton Abbey School,
Milton Abbas, which has a
25 metre indoor swimming pool.

Membership is open to anyone. Members range in age from less than a year to over 80. This is a social and friendly club. Join us and keep fit.

The pool is hired for 4 sessions a week. Lifeguards supervise all sessions. RLSS National Lifeguard and Bronze Medallion courses are available as well as swimming lessons for adults and children.

Annual Membership

Adults £80. Senior Citizens £60. Juniors (17 and under) £28 as part of a family, £45 individual.
Children (3 and under as part of a family) free.

Club Sessions

Tuesdays: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Fridays: 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Saturdays: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Sundays: 8.00 am – 9.00 am

Come to the pool during any club session for a free swim and pick up an Application Form or contact Robert (01258 880192) or Pat (01258 880601).



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www.sohani-homeopathy.com

The Milborne Players

3rd, 4th and 5th February 2011

Village Hall, Milborne St. Andrew

Something to definitely put in your diary to blow away the winter blues
REHEARSALS are now in full flow for this truly original production of a well known classic pantomime written by our very own Ron Karley. All the traditional characters, very ugly sisters, wicked stepmother, a hardup Baron and helpful Buttons, not forgetting of course the environmentally conscious Prince Charming and his side kick Dandini, all of whom play their role in the fate of Cinders. We must not of course forget the forces of good and evil which are brought to life by the good fairy, Bumblebore and the wicked Wizard Mouldymort who battle through the show with their own power struggle. The main cast are joined by some celebrity beauticians and a small army of young people playing their part in supporting roles and production chorus numbers.

Remember this is an original show. Will there be a Ball? Will Cinders go? What happens to her footwear and how will it all turn out in the end? Only way *you* will know is to come along and find out. Four performances including a Saturday matinee. Tickets available for advance booking from Sid Coe on 01258 837453 now or from the MstA Londis from the 4th January 2011.

Caroline Nobbs Production Manager

Cat Burglar!

Has anybody lost a small, young, black and white cat which appears to be semi-feral? It is raiding houses in the St. Andrew's View area at night in search of food. In some houses it has been in fights with the resident cats.

If you have lost a cat fitting this description, or have any information which might help to reunite the cat with its owner, please contact Sally Dyer on 837061.



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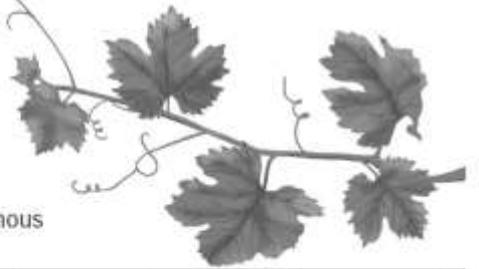
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ACCOMMODATION
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Parish Council Meeting – 10th November – Bits of interest

WE had a full house of councillors at the meeting – four councillors plus the Clerk to the Council (both retiring and incoming). This is due to the resignation of another councillor. We have been losing them at the rate of nearly one every three months. Chairman Michael Hopper pleaded and urged that more people come forward, as a reasonable sized village we deserve a full complement of seven.

New Parish Clerk appointed

We have a new clerk – Joyce Holman was introduced to the public at the Parish Council Meeting. At present she works at Sherborne Town Council, and has previous experience of being a Parish Clerk. This was evident when a question was asked about the cumbersome way the Clerks wages were paid, with a cheque countersigned by two people. She has said there is a way that it can be paid by direct debit. A step into the 21st century maybe?

Drains and “Fix My Street”

Our road drains have been “rodded” but not sucked out, which means that they are not as clear as they could be. We need as many residents as possible to go on the “Fix my Street” website to report any road issues, from blocked road drains, to wonky bollards, the council DO take notice, especially if there is more than one report of any problems.

Doom and Gloom – the way of the world!

Della Jones (NDDC) attended the meeting, she warned that car park charge increases are likely to come into force in Blandford, that the District Council is cutting services, in many places by collaborating with adjoining councils to pool resources.

Milton Road Corner Saga

Our Parish Council wrote to the Highways and Transportation department at County Hall as regards the tightness of the corner, and that vehicles have to mount the pavement at times to get safely around into Milton Road, the Highways letter of reply says that “contrary to the perceived judgement of local residents, the new kerb line actually widened the Milton Road at its narrowest point by approximately 100mm” and that, with regard to the mounting of the pavement, “two local hauliers . . . agreed that it has always been difficult turning”, that “the recent works have in no way made negotiating it less safe”. The PC also asked whether the white painted lines showing the planting proposals could be removed. In their response, they say “they would have been removed if the proposed works would have taken place” and that they should be removed “by means of a pressurised jet washer . . . undertaken by the local community”. The PC now have to seek a licence to fix the planters, seat and bin from another department! And by now the lines may have been removed by a member of the PC, acting as an individual (because they are not allowed to do it officially)! Oh the joys of red tape!

Caravans on the Sports Field

The PC have given permission for the Sports Club to continue to seek the correct permissions to allow up to 20 caravans on specific events to use the sports field (not the football pitch) in closed season. By only allowing specific events, it is easier to police and control.

Do you want an allotment?

The Parish Council have agreed to investigate the possibility of allotments next to the Sports Field at the top of the village. But they need some sort of Allotment Group/Society/Gathering of people who have to, as a group, show that it is needed. We’ve been told that in one local town, there is a waiting list of years! So now is our chance to get one locally. If you are interested to know more, please contact Parish Council chairman, Mick Hopper. If you prefer, the *Reporter*, in this instance, will be pleased to pass on expressions of interest to the Council on your behalf.

The Next Meeting is on the 8th December 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Weather in Milborne St. Andrew October 2010

OCTOBER 2010 was a kindly month as Octobers go. Total rainfall of 84.8mm was 85% of average but there was rain all day on the 1st of the month amounting to 34.5mm, which will probably be the highest daily rainfall this year, and this made the rest of the month quite dry. There were only three air frosts during the month which made it a ‘growthy’ month.

This was not the case 50 years ago. 1960 was the wettest autumn on record for parts of southern England and the West Country. The main street of Bridport was flooded to 5ft but the Exeter area fared worst of all. Exeter was temporarily cut off with every road out of the city under water for 48 hours. On 6th October over a thousand homes were flooded in Exmouth. Some 20 people were rescued by boat from upstairs windows in Cornwall. The wet weather continued into November with further floods carrying away furniture, cars and caravans.

November so far has been a quite a wet month with much needed rainfall to swell the aquifers but the days have been dull and dreary and it was probably these sort of days which prompted Percy Bysshe Shelley to write;

“The warm sun is failing, the bleak wind is wailing,
The bare boughs are sighing, the pale flowers are dying,
And the year
On the earth her deathbed, in a shroud of leaves dead,
Is lying.”

Pluvius

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Mucky 'goings on' at the Village Hall

A 'must-have' on your Christmas list to Santa this year can be that new tennis racquet and a set of 'green flash' pumps you had always promised yourself because if everything continues according to schedule, the MUGA court will be up and running by mid-December. The final green surface coating and permanent sport line markings will be applied in the Spring of 2011.

One of the critical factors of the design criteria was that the surface had to be built to LTA standards and big enough to allow recreational tennis to be played and that is what we will have. We also had a mountain of earth to get rid of but that is another story.

Quote from the quote

Tennis Posts; Supply and erect playing posts consisting of 75mm square aluminium finished in green. These will be fitted with an external brass winding mechanism. They will be erected in galvanized sockets previously set in concrete. A top quality braided playing net with braiding along the bottom and sides and fitted with a cotton headband, adjuster and ground anchorage will be installed for Tournament or Club use. Price £570 plus the dreaded VAT.

All that the trustees need to do now is decide how to manage the use of the nets. Leaving them out to be abused or nicked is not an option so any ideas will be gratefully received, either from casual users or the new Tennis Club user group!

Now Hear this . . . we only need to say it once

All Hall users can now use the Hall's extensive audio and lighting system. The Players group has wired up the controls that are external to the Control Room and a simple user guide has been provided that makes it easy-peasy to use. So, if you just need general amplification through the extensive speaker system that is automatically fed through the hearing loop as well there are now

connection points at the front and the rear of the main hall. Microphones are also available on request and as with the Broadband connection; these are provided as part of the all-in hire charge.

It never rains, it pours

The trustees hope to complete the roofing of the new extension once the current spate of rainfall relents and the roofers can get on with the task. Hearn Roofing will be applying Fibreglass over the top of the existing felt roof using Hambleside Danelaw Dryseal Roofing system. We are told that this has a guarantee for 20 years and is ideally suited for this job.

The cost to do the flat roof will be £840+ VAT. Money continues to pour in from the Lottery and we have just been awarded a further grant of £450 towards this work. Why only £450? Well in any two year period you are only allowed £10,000. The 1st Awards 4 All was for £7,500. When that two year period ran out we were granted a further £9,500 for more improvements including the rendering of the external walls. That was 18 months ago, for those good at basic arithmetic the £450 puts us at £50 under the magic ceiling of £10,000.

Wanted, a Trojan Horse, pretty quick

With 180 tonnes of topsoil to move as part of the MUGA we now get to the mucky goings on bit. Plan A was for the contractor to remove the soils at a cost of £2,000. We declined that offer and Plan B was for the topsoil to be given to the Sports Club providing they made arrangements to remove the soil at no cost to the VH. Plan B went 'belly up' on the day the mountain of earth appeared (Thursday) and the sports club realized that they did not have the means to remove it. Plan C was to find out how much it would cost for contractor on site to remove it to the sports ground and we were told the cost would be £600.

The trustees project team met in emergency session and agreed to offer the topsoil to the Sports Club on the condition that they paid the going rate for the move. The members of the Sports Club desperately wanted the stuff to complete the cricket square but declined the offer as they had no funds to pay for the operation even on a DFS style deferred payment terms. (We are now at 10.00pm on the same day that Plan B went belly up!).

It was imperative that the soil was removed so at 7.30am on the next morning we moved to Plan D and asked the contractor what he would pay the VH to move the stuff on and we were quoted £40 a lorry load or about £320. Another emergency Trustees project meeting later, we agreed to 'take the hit' rather than 'take the money' and to move the topsoil to the sports club as part of the MUGA contract. The thinking being that we were moving what was essentially a community resource from one part of the village to another for the long term benefit of the community. As a result the move took place on the very next day (Friday).

The sting in the tail, and there always is one it seems, was that during the move to the Council owned sports ground enough 'agitation' was generated to cause the contractor to send out a road sweeper to clear mud from the Causeway, Lane End and Blandford Hill. The VH Trustees have now been 'hit' by the cost of that operation to the tune of some £132. The interesting thing is that the lorry only put his rear wheels on our mud but when he arrived at the Sports Club, in an act of friendly co-operation he tracked over the mud to the centre of the cricket pitch and dumped his loads. After the 'agitation' he dumped the remainder alongside the sports club building.

Ah well, pity it wasn't Dewlish or Roke Road eh the stuff is axle deep there!!

PS If you would like to join our happy band of trustees we are doing what is on our label "making a difference". Want to join in the fun?

Richard Lock



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December

From November 29th until
December 24th

Christmas set menu and Buffet menu
also available

Tuesday 7th December

Christmas Bingo - 8.00pm

Tuesday 14th December

Christmas Carols with the Wetherbury Singers
Mulled Wine & Mince pies @ 7.30pm

Saturday 18th December

Christmas Grand Draw @ 8.00pm then
Live Music with Lisa Makk from 9.30pm

Friday 31st December

Celebrate the new year by bringing a plate of food
to share and dance til the early hours to the Disco

Christmas opening hours and food times

24th December - last food order 8.00pm - Food bookings only

25th December - 12noon til 2.00pm - drinks only

26th December - 12noon til close



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Community Contacts

More information about many community organisations can be found on www.milbornestandrew.org.uk

Councils

Environment Agency Floodline		0845 9881188
North Dorset District Councillor	Michael Cox	01258 881396
Parish Council – Dewlish	Clerk: Pat Gubbins	01258 881348
	Chair: Mike Claydon	01258 837314
Parish Council –	Clerk: Colin Fletcher	01258 450639
Milborne St. Andrew	Chair: Michael Hopper	01258 837642

General – Adult

Drop-in Centre – POPP	Rose and Ed Frost	01258 837921
Computer Drop-in Sessions	Sue Gould	01258 837575
Ladies Group – Dewlish	Judith Bridgen	01258 837157
Memory Lane Swing Band	Bob Boorman	01258 839077
M.A. Neighbourcar	Nigel Hodder	01258 881709
Wednesday Social Club	Margaret Evans	01258 450518
Women's Institute	Linda Wright	01258 839255

General – Youth

Beavers	Sue Mullett	01258 839076
Cub Scouts	Jo Hewish	01305 852614
Hazelnuts out-of-school club	Hazel Barrett	01305 848588
Ladybirds (Playgroup)	Liz Dyer	01258 839117
Scouts	Jim Burg	01258 837466
Under 5's Group – The Busy Bees	Suzy Curtis	07808 252012
Youth Club age 8 – 14 yrs	Sallie Maitland-Gleed	01258 837442

Police

Police – Non-emergency contact		01202 222222
Community Beat Officer	PC Dave Mullins	01202 223003
		07825 521850
Community Beat Officer (Dorch)	PC Charlie Dale	01305 222222
Community Service Vehicle	CSO Angie Partridge	01202 226000
Safer Neighbourhood Team		
Blandford Rural South	PC Dave Mullins and	01202 223003
	PCSO Luke Goddard	or 07825 521850

Or email blandfordruralsouthSNT@dorset.pnn.police.uk

School

Milborne 1st School		
Headteacher:	Anne Purdy	01258 837362
Chair Govs:	George Legg	
Friends of School Chair:	Sally Taylor	

Special Interest

Bellringers	Pip Bowell	01258 837329
Food and Wine Society	Maureen Lock	01258 837929
Healthy Eaters	Heather Gippis	01258 837058
MSA Friendly Art Group	Sue Marsh	01258 837414
MSA Gardening Club	Sally Dyer	01258 837061
Milborne Players	Roy Sach	01258 837033
Ranters' Folk Session	Roger Harrall	01258 837371
Round Robin Ramblers	Ian Bromilow	01258 880044

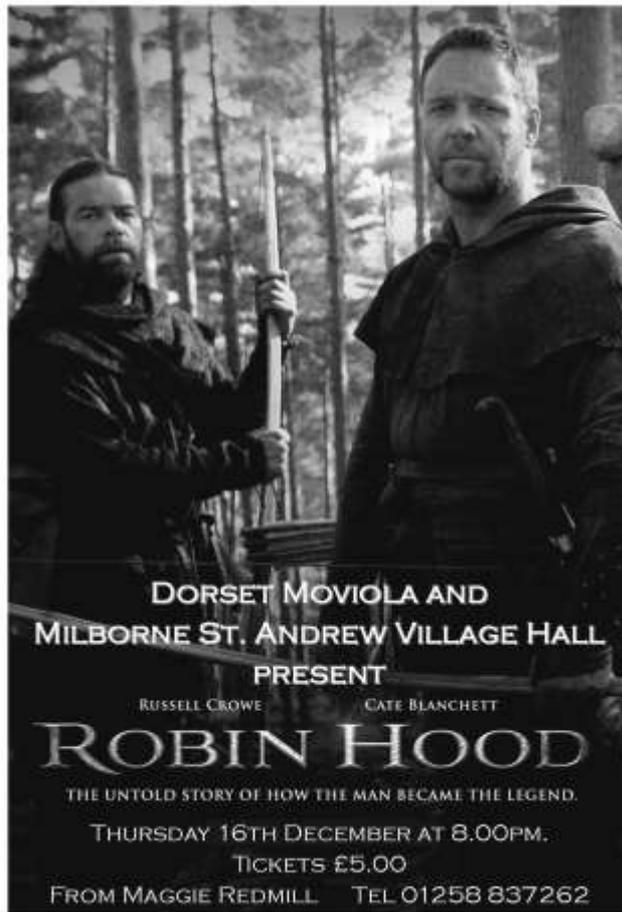
Sport

Abbey Swimming Club	Pat Cowan	01258 880601
Adult Tap Dancing Milton Abbas	Libby Goodchild	01305 268029
Archers – Crossways	Sheila Ryall	01258 837504

Athletics – Junior	David Pearson	01258 837057
Badminton	David Payne	01258 837700
British Horse Society (Dorset)	Carol Shoopman	01258 880318
Circuit Training and Pilates	Claire Barratt	01929 554999
		07946 732769
Cricket – Dewlish	Elaine Kellaway	01258 837696
Cricket Club – Milton Abbas	Andy Smith	01258 880310
Cricket – Junior (U11 – U13)	Andy Smith	01258 880310
Football – Adult	Paul Morgan	01258 837619
Football – Reserve Team	Andy Draper	07824 394436
Football – Under 15s	Grant Taylor	07879 841518
Football – Under 11s	Daryl Sims	01258 881397
Modern Sequence Dancing	Grace Davies	01258 837261
Running Group	Anne-Marie Pearson	01258 837057
Skittles – Dewlish	Frank Ross	01258 837366
Sports Club		
Chairman:	John Sanderson	01258 837049
Bookings:	Alice Harrall	01258 837371
Table-tennis (over 50's)	Sandra Shannon	01258 837253
Tap Dancing for Men and Women		01258 880523
Yoga	Sue Chapman	01305 848053

Village Hall

Dewlish		
Chairman:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Sec:	Alex Carter	01258 837312
Milborne St. Andrew		
Chairman:	Richard Lock	01258 837929



Community Events Diary

Add your event to this diary by contacting the **Reporter** – tel: 01258 837921 or email: reporter@milbornestandrew.org.uk

November

Friday 26th

Funeral Service at St. Andrew's Church for the late Charles (Charlie) Morby 2.00pm – see page 3.

December

Wednesday 1st

Wednesday Club Visit to Sherborne Castle Garden Centre and Christmas lunch at King Stag.

The Friends of School Christmas Fayre Milborne St. Andrew First School. 3.00pm. Christmas shopping, fun and games. All welcome.

Saturday 4th

Village Christmas Lunch.

Wednesday 8th

Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm.

Friday 10th

Last Friday Drop-In before Christmas.

Saturday 11th

St. Andrews Church 'The Mill Singers Male Voice Choir' 7.30pm in the church – see page 5.

Tuesday 14th

Charity Carols for the Children's Society The Royal Oak 7.30pm – see page 7.

Thursday 16th

Robin Hood Village Hall 8.00pm – see below.

Sunday 19th

Carol Service Dewlish Church 3.00pm – see page 5.

Christingle Praise! Milborne Church 4.00pm.

Carol Service Puddletown Church 6.00pm.

Monday 20th

Christmas Fun Soccer School – see page 27.

January 2011

Friday 7th

Friday Drop-In restarts Village Hall 10.00am.

Wednesday 12th

Wednesday Club New Year Party, with live entertainment and hot buffet. The Royal Oak. 2.00pm – see page 3.

Saturday 29th

Village Lunch Village Hall 12.15pm – see page 7.

Regular Bookings at the Village Hall

Beavers Monday 6.00–7.15pm MH (term time only)

Computer drop-in session Monday 6.30–7.30pm CR (term time only)

Ladybirds Playgroup Monday–Friday 8.30am–1.00pm MH (term time only)

Players Monday 8.00–10pm MH

ABC Line dancers Tuesday 7.30–10.00pm MH

Cub Scouts Tuesday 5.45–7.15pm MH (term time only)

MSA Friendly Art Group second and fourth Wednesday 7.00–9.00pm CR

Wednesday Club first Wednesday 2.30–4.30pm MH

Gardening Club fourth Thursday 7.30–10pm MH

Healthy Eaters Thursday 7.00–8.00pm CR

Karate Thursday 5.10–6.40pm MH

Village Hall Committee third Thursday 8.00–10.00pm

Women's Institute second Thursday 7.30–10.00pm

POPP Drop-In Friday 10.00am–12 noon CR

Youth Club every other Friday 6.30–8.30pm MH (term time only)

Sequence Dancing third Saturday 7.30–10.30pm MH

Village Lunch last Saturday of the month 12.15–2.30pm MH/CR

Milborne Praise! third Sunday 4.00–5.30pm MH

Moviola about every six weeks, look out for the posters, 8.00pm MH

Artsreach Events – look out for the posters.

Check Village Hall Notice Board for any other events that are one off for you to join in with.

Regular Bookings at the First School

Pilates Monday 7.00–8.00pm (term time only)

Yoga Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm (term time only)

Badminton Wednesday 7.00–9.00pm (term time only)

Circuit Training every Thursday 7.00–8.00pm

Moviola presents "Robin Hood" (12A)

at Milborne St. Andrew Village Hall
on Thursday 16th December 2010 at 8.00pm

THIS film tells the story of the man behind the legend. It starts in 1199 when Robin Longstride (Russell Crowe) is a common archer in Richard the Lionheart's (Danny Huston) army. While returning from the Crusades, King Richard is killed in battle with the French. Another warrior, a knight, lies dying and is comforted by Robin, who promises to take the man's sword back to his father, Walter (Max Von Sydow) in Nottingham. Robin arrives in Nottingham to find the town suffering from a despotic sheriff and crippling taxation, and it is here that he encounters the spirited widow Lady Marion and also Loxley's old and blind father Sir Walter (Max von Sydow) who asks him to continue impersonating his son, in order to prevent the family lands being taken by the crown. Robin hopes to save the town and earn Marion's hand by assembling a gang with lethal fighting skills with whom he begins preying on the rich and corrupt.

Several historical inaccuracies are present, but the film's theme is never give up, as we are swept back in time to the 13th century where treachery, greed and ambition swirl together like perilous quicksand. Those expecting a typical Robin Hood adventure, featuring the man in tights living in Sherwood Forest with his merry men will be sorely disappointed, but it is a sweeping epic executed in a manner that makes all the spectacle and pageantry appear effortless. The film ends where the Robin Hood story traditionally begins.

For more information see the Dorset Moviola web site <http://www.moviola.org/> or www.robinhoodthemovie.com

The village hall is open from 7.30pm and the film starts at 8.00pm. Tickets £5.00.

To book advance tickets phone Maggie Redmill on 01258 837262.

Alice Harrall

December at the Sports Pavilion



Ballroom and Latin Dancing Lessons from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Friday 3rd and 10th December 2010. (informal dance practice on 14th December 2010) Contact John Kane Tel. 837108 or email jkane47@btinternet.com

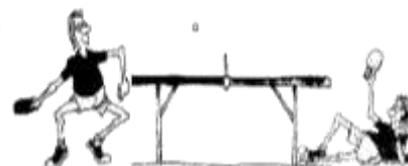
The Busy Bees Under 5 Group from 9.30am to 11.30am on Thursday term time only. Contact Suzy Curtis 07808 252012

Folk Club at 8.00pm on Friday 17th December 2010. Contact Roger Harrall Tel. 837371 or email roger.harrall@gmail.com

Hotpot Supper and Quiz at 7.30 for 8.00pm supper and quiz at 9.00pm on Saturday 11th December. Contact Roger Harrall Tel. 837371 or email roger.harrall@gmail.com

Pottery from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on 1st and 8th December 2010. Contact David Archer Tel. 07868 276296

Table Tennis from 7.00pm to 9.00pm every Monday evening. Contact Sandra Shannon Tel. 837253



Football Training Adults on Tuesday evenings; 6–11 year olds on Wednesday evenings; Under 15 Thursday evenings.



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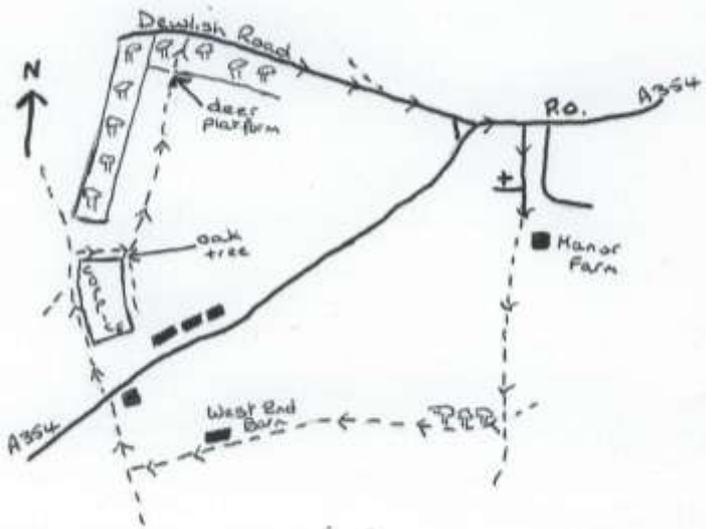
Remember to wear appropriate footwear – it may be muddy!

FROM the Square walk down Chapel Street and continue through the gate onto Manor Farm. Pass the stone pillars and bear right to a stile. Continue ahead through another gate and to a stile alongside the beech trees. Once over the stile, turn sharp right and keeping the beech trees on your immediate right head for a wicket gate.

Follow the path along the shallow valley passing through two more gates. At the next farm gate turn left then right so that the hedge is now on your right.

You will soon pass West End Barn. At the end of the field turn right along the bridgeway which will take you to the A354 at Milborne Wood. Take great care crossing the road, and turn left along the road for about 15 metres. Turn right onto a bridgeway with a field on your right followed by a hazel coppice.

Stay on this path for about 600 metres, then look out for a footpath on your right. There is a yellow waymark on one of the bushes. The footpath follows the edge of the coppice which is on your right. Having



turned right here, walk along the edge of the coppice until you come to a big oak tree on the further corner of the wood.

Turn left and walk along the boundary between two fields, heading for another wood and a deer-stalkers platform. As you enter the wood take the main path straight ahead and proceed to the Dewlish Road. Turn right along the road and continue back to the village. *Anne Snape*

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LETTERS TO THE REPORTER

Dear Editor

Why? is a question I often ask myself. The 'why' which is dominating my thoughts is why is it that so few people of the village put themselves forward to join the Parish Council. The freedoms we do enjoy have been hard fought for and there are those in government who would dearly love to remove those rights given half the chance.

Universal suffrage or the right of everyone, with a few exceptions, over the age of majority to vote and participate in all forms of local and national government, to have opinions that differ from your friend or neighbour and within the democratic framework work towards those things that you believe in and make a difference.

My Great Grandfathers did not have the vote until 1884, my Grandmothers did not have the vote until 1930, some women did achieve suffrage in 1918 but very few.

I can see a point where there are insufficient members of the council for it to function according to the law. What happens

then is, as I understand it, all decisions affecting the parish will be made by North Dorset District Council. The precept, that is the amount of council tax raised and spent in this parish, will be determined by North Dorset District Council with no guarantee that the money will be used for the benefit of the parish. The district council has long wanted the parish council to raise the local tax well over what it requires locally and handover the extra to be spent by them. Without a Parish Council this would be an ideal opportunity for them to do what they liked with no recourse from the population of Milborne St. Andrew.

In May 2011 local elections should be called to form a new Council, will there be enough candidates to hold an election here in Milborne St. Andrew, I doubt it. I came to the village in 1993 and there has never been an election in all that time, all current members of the Parish Council have been co-opted (invited to serve).

I can only assume that residents are in general happy with this situation. If this is the case so be it but if you have strong opinions and want to have an influence on the workings of the Parish Council please come and join us or stand for election next May.

Yours faithfully Michael Hopper

Ask Millie – your problems solved



Dear Millie

Further to your useful suggestions about 'Trick or Treaters' in the November Reporter. I find that offering the children some home-made pumpkin soup when they ring the doorbell also does the trick. Worth it to see the look of horror on their little faces.

Millie says – Thank you, I look forward to trying this out next Halloween. I bet all the children reading this can hardly wait.

Dear Millie

I notice that you only offer an e-mail address for people to get in touch with you. What about the many people in the village who do not have a computer?

Millie says – Everyone in Milborne St. Andrew has free access to e-mail at the Monday night computer group, also for 50p a session all ages can use the Friday morning drop-in. I understand that free expert help is available at both sessions. However, if you don't want to use e-mail, you can leave a hand written letter addressed to Millie c/o The Reporter at the Friday drop-in or Monday night group. You could drop it in on your way to do your washing in the stream.

Last month's problem – leaving rubbish bags out early

Millie says – Many elderly, ill or disabled people depend on friends, relatives and neighbours to put out their rubbish bags for them. I suggest you offer to put their rubbish out when you do yours. If you feel their rubbish is particularly unsightly then perhaps you could try decorating it with a few strands of tinsel and some fairy lights. Nothing too over-the-top though.

Next month's problem – Dear Millie, My neighbour has a dog which barks non-stop when left alone in the house. It drives me mad every afternoon when she picks up her children from school. What can I do?

Questions and answers welcome: e-mail millie@milbornestandrew.org.uk or address envelopes to Millie c/o The Reporter and leave at the village hall.



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Christmas Spirit!

THIS recipe (thank you Cynthia) complements last month's Sloe Gin recipe. I make them on alternate years. The finished drink is the most beautiful vibrant red colour and both smells and tastes like Christmas.

- 1lb cranberries
- 2 clementines
- 1lb granulated sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 16 fl oz vodka
- Sterilised jar with lid to hold 1½ pints.



I use a Kilner jar.

1. Process the raw cranberries in a food processor or crush using a pestle and mortar. Spoon the pulp into the jar.
2. Pare rind very thinly from clementines avoiding the white pith. Squeeze juice then add juice and peel to the jar.
3. Add sugar, cinnamon stick and vodka to jar and seal lid. Shake well to combine.
4. Store in a cool place for one month, shaking the jar daily for two weeks then occasionally.
5. After a month transfer into sterile containers using a funnel and filter paper to clear.

Serve neat as a winter warmer or dilute with sparkling water or wine. Best left to mature, but can be made now in time for Christmas. Like the Sloe Gin, when transferred into pretty bottles, it makes an ideal Christmas gift.

Rose Frost

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In your Garden

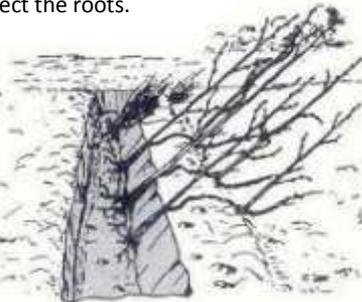
Seasonal notes and tips from Maureen Lock of *Designer Gardens*

Winter garden

THE gardens look such a mess at this time of the year – there's not too much to do apart from clearing up all those pesky leaves – which seem to keep appearing. As soon as you've cleared up one load, another lot miraculously appear!

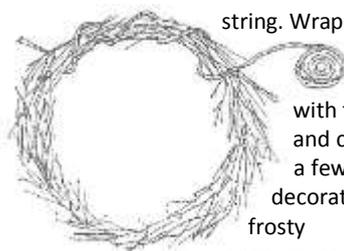
Of course, there is still planting to be done, and between now and March/April is the VERY best time to plant bare root trees and roses. Don't plant them when the ground is frozen or waterlogged, and if you can't plant them straight away because of unfavourable conditions, then just heel the plants in to protect the roots.

Heeling in is when you dig a V shaped trench that is wide and deep enough to hold the roots of the plant. Lay the plant/tree at an angle so that the roots are at the bottom and the trunk or base of the plant is resting on the side of the trench. Backfill with soil to cover up the roots – don't cover the stem or trunk (or the crown of the plant) as it will rot. Plants can be left heeled in for several months but it's best to plant them in their permanent home within a few weeks or you stand the risk of them bursting into life before planting.



Christmas will soon be upon us, and the garden is a great source of home-grown decorations. It is really easy and fun to make an attractive holly wreath for the front door – you just need some stiff garden wire, raffia or string, sprigs of evergreen shrubs such as ivy, rosemary, euonymus, conifer leaves and holly with berries.

Coil the wire into a circle several thicknesses deep and tie with



string. Wrap with synthetic moss (the sort you use for lining hanging baskets) and completely cover the wire frame with the moss. Gather up some fir, pine and cedar foliage (to create texture) – add a few blue spruce sprigs to give your decoration a

frosty appearance.

Shiny holly, bay or laurel leaves will add some natural shine and break up the uniformity of the evergreen needles. Tuck in some other leafy clippings such as ivy, euonymus and eucalyptus. Now for the best bit – decorate your wreath with fir cones, crab apples, cinnamon sticks and anything else you fancy to give it some colour.



Spare a thought too for the birds – If you have left the seedheads on your plants you will have created a shelter and food for wildlife as well as providing additional interest in your border. Did you know that seedheads provide protein and carbohydrates for birds such as finches. Their long beaks are ideal for getting the seeds out of the husks. Ladybirds and beetles often shelter inside seed husks and hollow stems. When planning your garden for next year, you might like to consider placing plants that have attractive seedheads where you can see them from the house.

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Corn Exchange—come & see us at the Rainbow stall!

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Rainbow Pre-School

By Charlotte Banyard

Sensory perception

THIS month at Rainbow we have been playing with (and eating!) **jelly**; this followed on from some observations of children who like to explore using all their senses.



The children have also produced some lovely firework pictures and collected leaves to use in a variety of ways.

On **4th December**, we will be selling hand-made jewelry and glass baubles at the **Blandford Lions Christmas Craft Fair** in the **Corn Exchange**. We would be delighted to see any past, present or future friends who would like to get ahead with their Christmas shopping.



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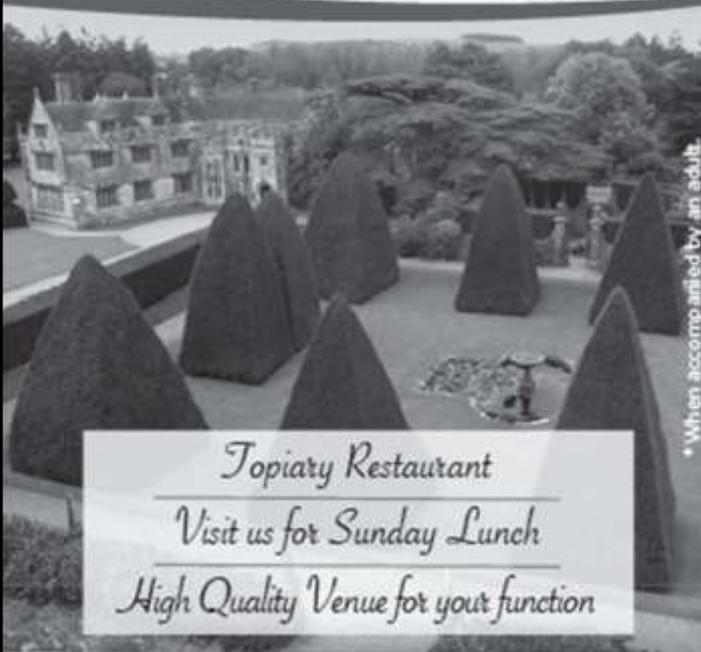
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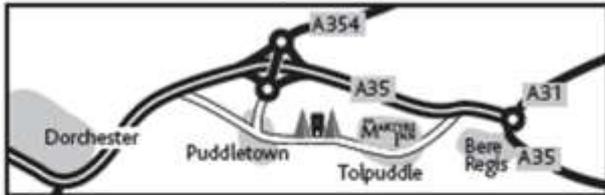
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Wednesday 29th December	Normal opening
Thursday 30th December	Normal opening
Friday 31st December	Normal opening
Saturday 1st January	Closed – New Years Day
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Monday 3rd January	Closed – Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4th January	Normal opening

How to get help when the surgery is closed!

If you need medical advice call NHS direct on **0845 4647** or logon to www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk.

If you need urgent medical attention telephone the out of hours GP service on **0845 600 1013**.

If you or anyone you are caring for have the following dial **999** for an ambulance:

- Is unconscious or not breathing
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- Has uncontrolled bleeding
- Is having an asthma attack unresponsive to medication
- Has severe chest pain
- Is choking
- Is fitting (if this is unusual)
- Has taken an overdose
- Is alcohol intoxicated and under 17 years of age
- Has been submerged in water for more than one minute.

Police tackle speeding in village

Following the PACT meeting on the 12th October the new issues raised rurally were:

Rural North – Speeding on the A350 Iwerne Minster .

Rural South – Parking on the pavement ,Winterborne Stickland .

The results of the previous priorites are :

Rural North – A354 speeding Pimperne – 17 tickets issued, 4 verbal warnings.

Rural South – Speeding Milton Road, Milborne St Andrew, 14 tickets, 39 warnings. (Checks carried out on 22 occasions.)



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SCHOOL NEWS

Have we had visitors from another planet?

LAST week, during their Aliens and Space topic work, some of the children made a strange discovery in the school grounds. Jessica, one of our year 2 pupils, has summarised the events as follows:

On the 11th November at Milborne St. Andrew School, the Year 2 and Year 1 children saw a man. Nobody knew who he was or why he was at the school. Mrs Andrews said the class could go and look. Mrs Andrews said "get your coats on and we'll all walk up". Mrs Hammond and her class came along too. The man had put police tape around four burnt marks on the ground. The man said "hello" and Mrs Hammond



said "hello" back. The man wanted some people to put masks on so they could get closer to the marks. The masks were to help keep the children safe. Then everyone started to look around for clues. We found an egg and Mrs Andrews told the man. The man picked the egg up and Mrs Hammond got a box, it had two boxes inside with tissue paper and a note, which had funny writing. The man put the egg in the box. Everybody carried on searching for another egg. We found another egg which was put into the box too.

Nobody knew what the marks were, what the eggs were or what the writing meant! The man took the tape down and we said goodbye. Mrs Hammond carried the eggs into her class and put them away safely. The children got ready for home time!

As soon as we have more details we will let everyone know, but in the meantime please don't worry or have nightmares, we are sure these creatures (from outer space?) are very friendly!

Children in Need

On Children in Need Day the children (and some adults) came to school in their pyjamas rather than school uniform. In exchange we collected toys for the Dorchester Women's Refuge. We have supported this local charity through our harvest festival and were keen to help as we know that they need activity packs for any



children who may arrive at the refuge. We are very thankful to the Milborne WI, who have been making fabric bags for us to fill with our gifts. As well as supporting our local children in need through this, we also held a collection for the national charity on the day raising £79. Thank you to everyone who made any contribution.

CONTACTS

If you require any information about the school, including admissions details for children please contact the school office.

Headteacher: Mrs Anne Purdy, **Secretary, School Office:** Mrs Helen Pugh
Chair of Governors: Mr George Legg, **FOS Chairman:** Mrs Angelica Cotterell
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Milton Abbas Sports Club/Cycling Cycle Buying Tips

IF you are thinking of buying your child a bike this Christmas there are some golden rules you need to bear in mind. Here are two of the most important ones.

1. Make sure it's the right size. It's better to progress in stages than to fit your child onto the biggest bike they can pedal and hope they grow into it; you can always hand down or sell on used bikes that have been looked after.
2. To ride a bike safely you need to be able to touch the ground – with the balls of your feet when sitting on the saddle – and your hands need to be able to reach the brakes properly without changing the hand hold.



Riding a bike is fun, but only when done safely. For more information about buying the right size bike for your child this Christmas contact Milton Abbas Sports Club/Cycling for a Buyers Guide and helpful information. E-mail cyclesafaris@btinternet.com or tel. 01258 880895

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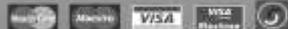
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10–12 miles walk

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Park at the Hardy Monument, map reference SY613876. Walk due south down into the trees, bearing left all the time until you come back to the road. Turn right and walk down the road for a few yards until you come to a footpath sign directing you to the ridgeway track on the right. Take this track and walk east through the famous collection of bronze-age barrows known as Bronkham Hill Barrow Cemetery.

Keep to the Ridgeway track for another mile or so, ignoring two bridleways leading off to the left directing you to

Martinstown. At map reference SY645867 you will come across a third bridleway, this one leading you down the hill to the left directly towards Maiden Castle. The path leaves the first field via a gate in the north-western corner and then crosses a



Hardy's monument

second field passing just to the right of a group of three barrows. Again you leave this field via a gate in the north-western corner. Do the same in the third field (the paths here do not strictly follow the routes shown on the OS map) and you will reach a stony track running



Bronkham Hill

north and then east into Higher Ashton Farm.

Walk through the farm to the B3159 and follow this for a short distance northwards, turning right onto the Winterborne Monkton Road. After crossing the Winterborne the road turns sharp right but we carry on through the gate to Maiden Castle, walking north up the hill to the west gate. You really ought to spend a hour or two at this most historic and atmospheric site, but your legs or stomach might tell you otherwise. So we'll carry on along the main track until a bridleway takes us away in a northerly direction towards Poundbury. Thankfully we turn off left after a short distance and walk towards the far more attractive Clandon Farm.

Follow the way markers through the farm, keeping a westerly route across the Martinstown road and along the northern edge of a line of trees which lead you in to the village after about 300 yards. Turn left to the main road and then turn right walking through the village until you reach the Brewer's Arms. If it's before 2.30pm you're in luck because they will still be serving food. If not enjoy a pint in the garden anyway before walking back through the village looking for the bridleway opposite the church.

Take this track into the beautiful valley marked on the map as Grove Hill Bottom. After a while the track forks; we take the western route to Pen Barn Farm after which we climb up the hill back to the ridgeway at Bronkham. From here it's less than a mile back to the car park.

Bob Ford



Boots on for Milborne mini teams

MILBORNE Sports Mini Soccer Development Centre requires a few more members.

The club is looking to enter two teams in the Dorset Mini Soccer League next season at under-10s and under-8s level.

Children aged from six to 10 years are welcome to come along to the Wednesday night training sessions, where there is a strong emphasis on fun and soccer skills development.

The club has organised a Christmas Special Fun Soccer School on Monday, December 20 (10.00am–2.00pm) at Milton Abbas sports ground.

If any parent would like further details about joining the club or taking part in the Christmas Special Fun Soccer School telephone the head coach Bob Mowlem on 01305 751930.

Round Robin Ramblers

The local villages walking group

THE Ramblers 2010/2011 programme of walks is ongoing. Walks are normally held on the first Sunday and the third Wednesday of each month. Please join us as we enjoy exercise, good company and the wonderful Dorset countryside.

Any questions, please feel to contact: Ian Bromilow, 01258-880044.

SUNDAY 5th December – 1.30pm (note earlier starting time)

Hambledon Hill

Park in the vicinity of St. Mary's Church in Shroton (off A350 Blandford–Shaftesbury road).

Grid Reference: ST 860124 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 4.5 miles)

5th December is the last walk of 2010. Walks will start again on Wednesday 19th January 2011.

Wednesday 19th January – 11.00 am

Bokerley Ditch and Pentridge Down

Park at Bokerley Junction on A354, half a mile north of the village of Woodyates.

Grid reference: SU 032199 on OS Explorer Sheet 118 (approx. 5.5 miles)

A very happy Christmas and a fit and healthy 2011 to all RRRers and prospective members!

Please note:

- WHO** All welcome including well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners. No pre-booking required just turn up.
- WEAR** Suitable clothing for conditions and location, walking boots or Wellington boots.
- BRING** Waterproofs and refreshments (packed lunch on Wednesdays).
- PACE** We go at the pace of the slowest.
- TERRAIN** Expect mud, inclines and stiles.
- AIM** Keep fit, enjoy the countryside and each other's company.
- LEGAL** We look after one another but in the end you are responsible for yourself.



The Hambro Arms

Milton Abbas, Dorset



Christmas Party Menu

Starters

- Smoked salmon, prawn and crab medley with mixed leaves and granary bread
- Homemade soup of the day served with warm crusty bread
- Duck and cherry pate served with a port sauce, mixed leaves and granary toast
- Creamy garlic mushroom pot topped with warm goats cheese and served with warm crusty bread (v)

Main courses

- Festive roast turkey served with all the traditional trimmings
- Roasted lamb shank with a port and redcurrant sauce
- Chicken breast stuffed with wild mushrooms and wrapped in bacon with a whiskey and wholegrain mustard sauce
- Mediterranean risotto served with mixed leaves and shaved parmesan (v)

Desserts

- Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- Homemade Dorset apple cake
- Trio of chocolate truffles served with vanilla cream
- Homemade white chocolate and vanilla fudge cheesecake

Coffee and mince pies

All three courses, coffee and mince pies only £19.95
Two courses, coffee and mince pies only £15.95

By Reservation Only Deposit £5 per person

Christmas Day Menu

A welcoming champagne cocktail on arrival

Starters

- Sweet potato and chestnut soup served with a warm crusty roll (v)
- Fig and goats cheese parcel served with mixed leaves and granary bread (v)
- Smooth chicken liver pate served with cranberries served with mixed leaves and granary toast
- Smoked salmon, prawn and crab medley with mixed leaves and granary bread

Main courses

- Traditional roast turkey served with all the seasonal trimmings
- Roast sirloin of English beef with Yorkshire pudding and a red wine gravy
- Chicken breast stuffed with roasted vegetables with a sweet and tangy tomato sauce
- Vegetable nut roast with apricot topped with warm goats cheese (v)

Desserts

- Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- Warm chocolate brownie with Baileys infused cream
- Homemade winter berry cheesecake
- Lemon meringue roulade served with clotted cream ice cream

Local Cheese Platter

Coffee and mince pies

All four courses, coffee and mince pies only £59.95
By Reservation Only £20 per person deposit



Eat, drink and sleep blissfully

The Hambro Arms, Milton Abbas, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0BP

Tel. 01258 880233 www.hambroarms.com